

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA NEWS MAR. 1-15/ PART 1

03/01/12

ALABAMA & GEORGIA IMMIGRATION LAW

VO: 20

When a federal appeals court hears arguments Thursday in the legal challenges against tough new laws targeting illegal immigration in Alabama and Georgia, people outside of those two states will be paying attention. The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is scheduled to hear arguments on two separate challenges to Alabama's law, one filed by immigrant rights and civil liberties groups and the other filed by the U.S. Department of Justice. The three-judge panel will also hear arguments on a challenge to Georgia's new law filed by activist groups. In the case pitting Alabama against the federal government, the attorneys general in nine other states - Arizona, Georgia, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, Oklahoma and South Carolina - have filed an amicus brief supporting the state of Alabama. They say in the brief that they "have a manifest interest in ensuring that their sovereignty is accorded proper respect.

ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW

VO: 25

A federal judge blocked police in Arizona from enforcing a section of the state's 2010 immigration enforcement law that prohibited people from blocking traffic when they seek or offer day labor services on streets. U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton ruled Wednesday that groups seeking to overturn the law will likely prevail in their claim that the day labor rules violate the First Amendment. The ban was among a handful of provisions in the law that were allowed to take effect after a July 2010 decision by Bolton halted enforcement of other, more controversial elements of the law. The previously blocked portions include a requirement that police, while enforcing other laws, question people's immigration status if officers suspect they are in the country illegally.

BIRTH CONTROL-POLITICS

VO: 19

The Senate is debating Republican legislation aimed at taking a bite out of President Barack Obama's health care law. The measure, sponsored by Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt, would allow insurers and employers to opt out of any requirements to which they object on moral or religious grounds. That includes the recently rewritten policy that shifts the cost of contraceptive coverage to insurers. Republicans say the requirement still violates freedom of religion because it forces some organizations to cover contraception even if their faiths forbid birth control. Democrats, trying this election year to hold onto support from female and independent voters, say the measure is really an effort to reduce access to women's health care.

HOMEOWNERS PROTECTION

VO: 23

California Attorney General Kamala Harris put her support behind a Democrat-sponsored bill Wednesday that would provide more protection for struggling homeowners. California Homeowners Bill of Rights is a group of six proposed laws that would aim at fixing serious flaws in the system. It would establish fair standards of mortgage lending, transparency for the process, more law enforcement, and more homeowner protection. "California communities and families are being devastated by the mortgage and foreclosure crisis. We must ensure the deceptive practices that caused it never happen again," Harris said. The bill could give a single point of contact instead of passing mortgage holders from one department to the next.

FORECLOSURE SALES

VO :20

Nearly a quarter of all U.S. homes sold in 2011 were either foreclosures or short sales, but that group accounted for the smallest slice of overall home sales in three years. Foreclosure listing firm RealtyTrac says more than 907,000 sales were made last year of foreclosed-upon homes and others that were in some stage of the process. As a percentage of all homes sold, sales of bank-owned properties and other homes on the foreclosure track last year were back down to 2008 levels. But they remained an outsize portion of total sales compared 2005, when foreclosure sales comprised less than 1 percent of all sales.

TENSIONS RAISE SPECTER OF GAS AT \$5 A GALLON

VO: 33

and gas prices could rise another 50 cents a gallon or more, analysts say, if the diplomatic and economic standoff over Iran's nuclear ambitions escalates into military conflict or there is some other major supply disruption. "If we get some kind of explosion - like an Israeli attack or some local Iranian revolutionary guard decides to take matters in his own hands and attacks a tanker - than we'd see oil

CONSUMER SPENDING

VO: 20

Consumers earned a little more in January and spent most of the extra money. The gains should keep the economy growing at a modest pace. The Commerce Department says consumer spending increased 0.2 percent in January. That's also better than December's reading of no change. Americans' income rose 0.3 percent, the second straight monthly increase. Income barely kept pace with inflation last year. So the increases are a positive sign that consumers will have more money to spend. Consumer spending is important because it accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

KIDS CONSUME MORE SUGAR FROM FOODS THAN DRINKS

VO: 23

American children are consuming a lot of added sugar and most of it comes from processed foods... not sugary drinks. The Centers for Disease Control studied data from 2005 to 2008. It found 59-percent of calories from added sugar came from foods and 41-percent from drinks. The study also found boys consumed more calories per day than girls. The C-D-C says it counted all sugars, whether they were used in food preparations or added at the table. Added sugar can contribute to weight gain and other health issues.

BRAIN INJURY DRUG

VO: 27

Doctors have known about it for decades, but now research appears to confirm that a cheap flu medicine could be the

first treatment to speed recovery from severe brain injuries caused by falls and car crashes. Severely injured patients who were given amantadine (uh-MAN'-tuh-deen) got

better faster than those who received a dummy medicine. Far fewer patients who got amantadine remained in a vegetative state, 17 percent versus 32 percent. Many doctors began using amantadine for brain injuries years ago, but until now there's never been a big study to show that it works. The results appear in today's New England Journal of Medicine. But many questions remain, including whether people less severely injured would benefit, and whether amantadine improves long-term outcome or just speeds up recovery.

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03/02/12

ALABAMA & GEORGIA FOLLOW

VO: 55

When a federal appeals court hears arguments Thursday in the legal challenges against tough new laws targeting illegal immigration in Alabama and Georgia, people outside of those two states will be paying attention. The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is scheduled to hear arguments on two separate challenges to Alabama's law, one filed by immigrant rights and civil liberties groups and the other filed by the U.S. Department of Justice. The three-judge panel will also hear arguments on a challenge to Georgia's new law filed by activist groups. In the case pitting Alabama against the federal government, the attorneys general in nine other states - Arizona, Georgia, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, Oklahoma and South Carolina - have filed an amicus brief supporting the state of Alabama. They say in the brief that they "have a manifest interest in ensuring that their sovereignty is accorded proper respect."The Atlanta appeals court has jurisdiction over Georgia, Florida and Alabama. But the opinions the court releases could also influence judges in other jurisdictions and demonstrate to lawmakers what provisions federal courts are likely to accept or reject.

GOOGLE PRIVACY CONCERNS

ARIEL CORO INTERVIEW

3:00

Google's consolidated privacy policy violates European law, European Union Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding said Thursday, citing findings by data protection agencies in EU countries. France's independent privacy watchdog, the CNIL (Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés), had already concluded that the new policy did not meet the requirements of the European Directive on Data Protection earlier in the week Google announced the new policy in January and took it live today. At issue is the consolidation of Google's 70 or so privacy policies across its products down to one. With the change, Google seeks to maintain one profile for users rather than separate logs for services like YouTube, Search, Google+, and Blogger. It's that account consolidation bit and opt-out procedures for users that have privacy advocates up in arms. CNIL has already informed Google that it will lead an EU-wide probe into the new policy. Reding said Thursday that European data control authorities had asked the French organization to analyze the policy, according to Reuters

CONSUMER REPORT USED CARS SALE

ELENA CHAVEZ - INTERVIEW

3:00

Improving reliability among manufacturers make the gamble of buying used less risky; Many automakers are closing in on Honda & Toyota's lead YONKERS, N.Y., Feb. 28, 2012 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- With every passing year, buying a used car becomes less of a gamble according to a new analysis by Consumer Reports. Even the least reliable car-makers are gaining ground on the perennial reliability leaders, Toyota and Honda; Volvo has made the most dramatic improvement over the last decade, but almost all automakers have improved their products in recent years. The full report, available in Consumer Reports Annual Auto issue and at ConsumerReports.org, features the best used cars, identifies reliable cars and their availability of electronic stability control (ESC) for every budget, and shares seven tips for avoiding a lemon. The article also identifies troublesome used-car models to avoid.

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03/05/12

GAS PRICES

VO: 28

The nationwide average for gasoline prices continued its march toward the \$4 mark Monday, hovering at \$3.76 a gallon, according to the motorist group AAA. The average price of regular unleaded gasoline climbed three-tenths of a cent in the latest 24-hour period, marking the 27th straight increase, AAA said. The nationwide average was \$3.475 a gallon a month ago and \$3.70 a week ago. Last year at this time, the average price stood at \$3.50. The average price is 34.7 cents, or about 8.4%, lower than the record high of \$4.11 on July 17, 2008. Average prices for regular gasoline top \$4 a gallon in California, Alaska and Hawaii. At \$4.38 a gallon, Hawaii ranks as the nation's high. Prices are within a few cents of the \$4 mark in Connecticut, Oregon and New York, according to AAA. Wyoming has the nation's lowest gas prices, averaging \$3.21 a gallon. Gas prices have been rising on the back of soaring oil prices, which have surged 10% over the past month amid fears that tension with Iran will lead to an all-out war that causes a disruption in oil supplies.

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03/06/2012

DEPORTATION BY MISTAKE

JULIO CESAR ORTIZ, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

PKG: 2:16

ICE has established a hotline for citizens and victims of crimes that have been deported by mistake, in light of 20 year old Honduran who had been deported by mistake and died in the fire that took the lives of over 300 inmates two weeks ago.

INMIGRANT EXPIRED VISAS

VO: 22

By the time the suspect in an alleged bomb plot against the U.S. Capitol was arrested in a parking lot, wearing what he thought was an explosive-laden suicide vest, he had been living illegally in the United States for 12 years. The criminal case against Amine El Khalifi, 29, of Alexandria, Va., has renewed the debate about how the U.S. government

- a decade after the terror attacks of 2001 - routinely fails to track millions of foreign visitors who remain in the country longer than they are allowed. The Obama administration doesn't consider deporting people whose only offense is overstaying a visa a priority. It has focused immigration enforcement efforts on people who have committed serious crimes or are considered a threat to public or national security. A House Homeland Security subcommittee is conducting an oversight hearing Tuesday. The panel's chairwoman, Rep. Candice Miller, R-Mich., said El Khalifi "follows a long line of terrorists, including several of the 9/11 hijackers, who overstayed their visa and went on to conduct terror attacks." His tourist visa expired the same year he arrived from his native Morocco as a teenager in 1999.

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03/07/2012

GAS PRICES BREAK 27-DAY RISE

VO: 20

Good news at the pump. Gas prices finally head in the opposite direction after 27 straight days of increases. Triple-A says prices fell three-tenths of a cent. The average price of regular unleaded gasoline is 3-76 a gallon.

PASSPORT DAY RYAN DOOLEY INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW - MIAMI, FLORIDA

2:30

Post offices in Fellsmere and Fort Pierce will be two of 26 postal centers across Florida participating in the fourth annual Passport Day in the USA on March 10. Workers at the Oak Street post office in Fellsmere and the post office on Midway Road in Fort Pierce will dedicate their time Saturday to helping local residents apply for their passports. The special event is designed to give people who might not have time during the regular workweek a chance to apply for the legal document. It's a dedicated effort to help the community get their passports processed in time for those summer vacations that are around the corner," said Debbie Fetterly, South Florida postal spokesperson. "We'll have additional staff members on hand to help, and we set up stations so that the process goes smoothly and quickly.

MERCURY DISCOVERED IN COSMETIC PRODUCTS

VO: 31

Women in at least seven states may have been unwittingly slathering poison on their faces by using mercury-tainted cosmetics, the Food and Drug Administration warned today. The products, usually used for lightening skin, are sold as soaps, skin creams, and lotions. In all, the FDA has identified 35 products, most of them manufactured overseas, and most sold in Latino, Middle Eastern, African-American, and Asian neighborhoods.

Mercury poisoning can cause illness and even death, and while the amounts of mercury in the cosmetics is typically low, mercury, like lead and some other poisons, accumulates in the body. Mercury is also readily absorbable through skin.

PRESCHOOL MOUTHS: DENTAL DISASTER ZONES

MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN - MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG: 1:44

Preschoolers across the country are increasingly getting fillings and extractions for extensive dental decay, sometimes requiring surgery and general anesthesia in an operating room, pediatric dentists report. The trend, seen in families both rich and poor, points to neglect driven by several factors. Despite decades of emphasis on eliminating tooth decay with fluoride toothpastes and frequent brushing, many parents aren't getting the message that dental care begins when a child's first tooth comes in, and that a child should be brushing with fluoride by age 2. Parents of all income levels indulge young children in too many sugary snacks and sippy cups filled with sugar-laden fruit juices, dentists say. Too often, they put toddlers to bed with a bottle of juice or milk. Saliva levels go down overnight, making the mouth even more acidic and allowing sugars in the drinks to eat into tooth enamel for hours at a time.

MORE PEOPLE FEAR LOSS OF MOBILE PHONE

VO: 20

Do you panic or get anxious when you can't use your cell phone? You may have a condition called Nomophobia also known as "no mobile-phone phobia." An online British study of a thousand people showed that 66 percent of participants got stressed out

when their phone was out of reach. That's 11 percent higher than four years ago. One adolescent psychologist says he's seen people have panic attacks over mobile phone separation. Women and 18-to-24 year olds are more prone to the condition. Experts say there are ways to tackle nomophobia.

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03/08/2012

ALABAMA IMMIGRATION MARCH

MARIA ANTONIETA COLLINS - MONTGOMERY. ALABAMA

PKG: 2:39

Hundreds of people from across the country marched toward the state capital Thursday, chanting in English and Spanish to make the case that the battle against Alabama's immigration law is an extension of the civil rights fight they commemorated. The annual march from Selma to Montgomery drew participants from across the country and included black, white, Latino and Asian Americans. Marchers will walk the final leg of the roughly 50-mile journey today, finishing with a rally near the state Capitol. Gloria Mills of Detroit said civil rights gains in the 1950s and '60s were "hard-fought," but Alabama's House Bill 56 and voter identification laws being implemented across the nation are chipping away at those rights. While not an immigrant herself, Mills stood in solidarity with those who came to the country illegally and are now under fire in Alabama. "Immigration is the civil rights (issue) of this particular time period," Mills said as she marched. "If someone deprives them of their rights, I'm next."

IRS - DELAYED REFUNDS UPSET TAXPAYERS

VO: 22

Some early tax filers may be wondering where their refunds are. The Internal Revenue Service had glitches with its new computer system and that delayed some payments -- for weeks in some cases. The agency changed systems to combat identity theft and other fraud. Of course this has left millions of taxpayers unhappy. IRS officials say they cleared the backlog, so many filers could be seeing cash soon. But, if you filed electronically and haven't gotten your money yet, log on to www.irs.gov and click "where's my refund" to check the status.

BANK OF AMERICA REACHES DEAL ON HOUSING

VO: 26

Hundreds of thousands of homeowners could see deeper reductions on their mortgage principal than first thought.

That's if a deal by Bank of America goes through. This is a deal with the U-S government that's separate from last month's foreclosure settlement. The New York Times reports the bank hopes this will reduce the amount of money it owes in penalties under the settlement. Paperwork could be filed as early as Friday. Last month, 49 attorneys general announced a 26-billion dollar settlement to help homeowners who are underwater with their mortgages.

COCA-COLA - PEPSI TO MAKE CHANGES TO AVOID CANCER WARNING

VO: 29

Coca-Cola and Pepsi are making some changes to its sodas so California won't put cancer warning labels on them.

The companies are changing how the drinks' caramel coloring is made, but will do it nationwide, not just for California. The state added a compound known as 4-MI or 4-MEI to its list of carcinogens and the color additive has some levels of it. The American Beverage Association says the drinks don't cause any threat to people and California added the compound to its carcinogen list without any studies showing it causes cancer in humans. There was one study that showed cancer in rodents.

AIRFARES CLIMB, ROUTES DISAPPEAR AS FUEL PRICES RISE

VO: 20

Airfares are rising, planes are packed, and carriers are abandoning less-profitable routes. What's to blame? Climbing fuel prices. And there will be no relief in the immediate future, according to an analysis released by the Federal Aviation Administration "Planes will remain crowded," said the report released Thursday, and "shrinking capacity will further lift fares higher in 2012." The nation's airlines buy about 48 million gallons of fuel each day at a price that jumped nearly 40% in the last year. A gallon of jet fuel sold for an average of \$3 in 2011, up from \$2.15 in 2010. And although

airlines are flying more energy-efficient planes, fuel represents about 35% of the industry's total operating costs.

SECURE COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE

VO: 27

A new report from the Center for Immigration Studies examines the outcomes of Immigration and Custom's Enforcement's (ICE) Secure Communities program and how those outcomes have been misleadingly described in one widely-circulated study published by the Earl Warren Institute at the University of California, Berkeley Law School. The Center's report, second in a three-part series, uses the same database of actual case histories provided by ICE as the Warren Institute report. The groups that first obtained the ICE records have claimed that they reveal a disturbing pattern of abuse of authority by ICE, including wrongful arrests of thousands of U.S. citizens, a pattern of racial profiling against Latinos, and denial of due process for aliens in removal proceedings. These allegations have been uncritically passed on by major news media outlets and repeated by members of Congress. While the database does provide an interesting and relatively rare snapshot of the ICE caseload, the Center found that the records did not support any of the racial profiling allegations.

SCOLARSHIP FOR IMMIGRANTS

ALEX ROLAND - MANHATTAN, NEW YORK

PKG: 1:43

Among all the numbers that populate Nataly Lopez's life - including phone digits, addresses, pass codes and friends' ages - there is one that she never forgets: the cost of a semester's tuition at Baruch College, where she is a sophomore.

Ms. Lopez, 21, is an illegal immigrant from Ecuador and has struggled to make ends meet, working several jobs to be able to pay for school. "Two thousand eight hundred and five," she said. "I know that number because I have to reach it to get to the next semester." State proposals that would make government financial aid available for illegal immigrants like Ms. Lopez are pending in Albany. Frustrated with the pace of federal and state legislative action, advocacy groups, with the support of New York City officials, have developed a stopgap solution - for a small number of needy students, at least.

FDA CONSIDERS WAIVING PRESCRIPTIONS FOR KEY DRUGS

VO: 26

Drugs used to treat some ailments could be headed over the counter. The FDA has been seeking public comment about possibly waiving the prescription requirements for drugs used for diabetes, asthma and migraines. The goal is to help give more people access to the drugs. The public comment period ends today (Friday) and the FDA will have a meeting about the proposal at the end of the month. It has already met with drug companies to discuss ways to help people understand the risks and side effects of these medications if they were to go over the counter.

HEALTHBEAT-BIRTH CONTROL

VO: 32

What does birth control really cost anyway? It varies dramatically, from \$9 a month for generic pills to \$90 a month for some of the newest brands -- plus a doctor's visit for the prescription. Want a more goof-proof option? The most reliable contraceptives, so-called long-acting types like IUDs or implants, can cost \$600 to nearly \$1,000 upfront to be inserted by a doctor. That's if you don't have insurance that covers at least some of the tab -- although many women do. And if those prices are too much, crowded public clinics offer free or reduced-price options. But it might take a while to get an appointment.

TOBACCO USE-YOUTH

MARIA EUGENIA PAYAN - SATELLITE ROOM

PKG: 1:43

Nearly one in four high school seniors is a cigarette smoker according to a mammoth 920-page report released by the U.S. Surgeon General on Thursday, March 8. American Indian adolescents (12-17) and young adults (18-25) top the lists of all race/ethnicities in rates of cigarette smoking. According to the report, "For both age groups, American Indian/Alaskan Native males (14.3% adolescents, 50.0% young adults) and females (16.3% adolescents, 46.1% young adults) had the highest prevalence of cigarette smoking." The report did say, "American Indian/Alaskan Native youth have experienced especially sharp declines in current cigarette smoking in recent years, which suggests that some progress has been achieved in reducing disparities in cigarette smoking in this racial/ethnic group. By adulthood, American Indian/Alaskan

Native males and females will still have the highest prevalence of current cigarette smoking of all racial/ethnic groups."

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03/11/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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03/12/2012

MORE YOUNGER WORKERS FINDING JOBS

VO:23

Jobs for 25-to-34-year-olds increased by 116,000 to 30.5 million in February. Their unemployment rate fell from 9% in January to 8.7%, the lowest since January 2009, according to the Labor Department. Just as important, the portion of Americans in that age bracket who were employed - known as the employment-to-population ratio - rose to 74.7% from 74.5% and is up from a 29-year low of 73.2% in July. In a normal economy, about 80% of 25-to-34-year-olds have jobs. For workers overall, the jobless rate was unchanged at 8.3% in February. Young workers were hurt more than most in the recession and its aftermath. Many employers laid off entry-level employees first and limited the hiring of new college graduates with no experience. Faced with an unwelcoming job market, many college grads decided to hunker down and attend graduate school instead. In May 2010, the jobless rate for the 25-to-34 group was 10.5%, nearly a percentage point higher than the U.S.

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03/13/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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03/14/2012

ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA WILL STOP PRINTING

VO: 17

It's the end of an era for Encyclopedia Britannica. After 244 years - it will stop production of its multi-volume book sets. Britannica usually prints a new set every two years, but 2010's 32-volume set will be its last. Heading forward, the company will focus solely on its digital encyclopedia and education tools. Britannica's president says the move is a natural part of his company's evolution. Printed sets represent less than one-percent of the company's total sales.

NACA ORGANIZATION HELPS HOMEOWNERS

INTERVIEW RICARDO HERRERA - DIRECTOR OF "NACA"

2:30

Somehow, I can't escape CNN. Last Saturday I joined Ted Turner, Wolf Blitzer and more than 300 current and former CNN employees at a celebration of the network's 30th anniversary at the National Press Club in Washington. I was there as one of the "CNN Originals," the many staffers who helped originate what was mocked as the Chicken Noodle Network in Atlanta back in June 1980. There was pride and sense of achievement in the room by those who pioneered 24 Hour Cable News on small budgets but with lots of heart, coffee and sleepless nights. Being there was often thrilling and part of my personal learning curve on how big Media works, a story I tell in my book *The More You Watch The Less You Know*. It was an unforgettable time, and, even though I soon moved on to ABC News, I was pleased, even honored, to be part of it. As fate would have it, a day after that CNN celebration, I was back in Atlanta at CNN Center, actually, across the street, at the Georgia World Congress Center where another news-making network was holding forth.

CALIFORNIA UNIFIED BUDGET WOULD CUT THOUSANDS OF JOBS

VO: 29

The Los Angeles Board of Education approved a preliminary, worst-case \$6-billion budget Tuesday, a plan that would eliminate thousands of jobs, close all of the district's adult schools and cut some after-school and arts programs. But Supt. John Deasy presented a less severe deficit than initially expected to the board and several scenarios that would restore millions in funding and save some programs from either elimination or partial cuts before the budget is finalized. Much of that, however, is contingent on voters' passing the governor's tax initiative in November, which he hopes would stave off more education cuts.

REGRIGERATOR MUST BE CLEAN - WARNING

CECILIA RAMIRES HARRIS - MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG: 2:13

For millions, this burst of energy is put right to work by doing some "spring cleaning" in their houses. For me? The biggest .

TOTAL KNEE REPLACEMENT

MARIA EUGENIA RAMÍREZ - MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG: 45

New technology may be able to increase the life of a knee replacement. That's good news for millions of Americans over the age of 50 who may need to have their leg joint replaced. I could hardly sleep at night. It doesn't take a whole lot of time to get a good handle on why clarence dietrich is so happy to share his story with us. I am looking forward to doing a lot more things around here now. You can see it in the x-rays. You can see large bone spurs here and here this cartilage is very thin and narrowed. All of it proof of arthritis and one bad left knee. clarence's knee at least as of last october. This knee is going to last a lot longer than I am! His surgeon, dr. john xenos recommended a legion total knee some doctors are giving it another name: the "30 year knee." To have a knee that could possibly last your lifetime, that's a huge relief.

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03/15/2012

FORECLOSURE RATES

VO: 27

New figures out today show that foreclosure activity shot up last month across about half of the states, as banks tackled a backlog of homes with mortgages gone unpaid. The Foreclosure listing service known as RealtyTrac Inc. says the increase occurred across 26 states where the courts supervise the foreclosure process. In contrast, the 24 states where courts aren't a factor in foreclosures saw foreclosure activity decline in February. Overall, U.S. foreclosure activity dipped 2 percent from January and was down 8 percent from February last year. While uneven, the pace of foreclosures is accelerating following a \$25 billion settlement reached last month between the nation's biggest mortgage lenders and state officials over the industry's handling of foreclosures. RealtyTrac projects that foreclosures will rise 25 percent this year to 1 million homes.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

VO: 17

Fewer people sought unemployment benefits last week, adding to signs that the job market is strengthening. The Labor Department says weekly unemployment benefit applications dropped 14,000 to a seasonally adjusted 351,000. That matches a four-year low reached last month. The four-week average, which smooths fluctuations, was unchanged at 355,750. Applications have leveled off in the past few weeks after falling for six months. The average has declined 14 percent since October. The steady decline has coincided with the best three months of hiring in two years. From December through February, employers have added an average of 245,000 jobs per month.

APPLE'S NEW IPAD HITS STORES MARCH 16TH

VO: 23

Apple on Wednesday unveiled a new iPad, the third iteration of its best-selling tablet. The gadget will land in stores on March 16, with its entry-level price remaining the same as the current model: \$499 for a version with 16 GB of storage. The new iPad's flashiest feature is that it will sport a "retina display" previously only available on the iPhone. The pixels on retina display are so tiny that they're imperceptible to the human eye, Apple

claims. The new iPad screen has 3.1 million pixels, one million more than a 1080p high-definition screen of that size would.

SEARS TO CLOSE 53 HARDWARE STORES

VO: 28

Sears Holdings Corp. plans to close 53 hardware stores in the first half of 2012, the company said in its annual report filed late Wednesday. The closures include 43 Sears hometown dealer stores and 10 Sears Hardware stores. Hometown stores are small hardware stores, usually operated by independent dealers in rural areas. Sears Hardware stores are larger, corporate-owned outposts that carry Craftsman tools, DieHard car batteries and a limited selection of Kenmore appliances. The closures follow Sears' plan, announced in late December, to shutter up to 120 poor performing Sears and Kmart.

NEW TSA PROCEDURES FOR TRAVELING SENIORS

VO: 20

Starting Monday, some airports will have changed screening procedures for the elderly. The TSA says this new procedure will allow officers to better focus on passengers who may be more likely to pose a threat and speed up the screening process.

CDC- IMPORTED FOOD DISEASE OUTBREAKS UP

VO: 20

The CDC has some new information about the foods we eat. According to its latest study, disease outbreaks from imported foods were up in 2009 and 2010. Imported fruits and vegetables are on the list of items implicated in these outbreaks.

Salmonella infection was the most common cause of disease, followed by histamine poisoning from fish. Histamine poisoning happens when fish is improperly chilled after it's caught. The CDC says it's too early to say if these numbers represent a trend, but, imported foods are more likely to cause multi-state outbreaks. About 16 percent of what we eat in the United States comes from other countries.

NO MORE ANNUAL PAP SMEAR: NEW CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING GUIDELINES

VO: 29

CNN conditions expert Dr. Otis Webb Brawley is the chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society, a world- renowned cancer expert and a practicing oncologist. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force is releasing new guidelines on cervical cancer screenings. What's changed? In the 1930s, cervical cancer was the deadliest women's cancer in America. At that time, it killed more women each year than breast or lung cancer. But over the past 80 years, there has been a tremendous decline in the death rate from cervical cancer because of improvements in treatment and screening. Today, death from cervical cancer is relatively rare in the U.S. In 2009, about 4,000 American women died of cancer of the cervix. A review of the medical history of these women showed that the overwhelming majority had never had cervical cancer screening, and most who did were screened more than 10 years before diagnosis.

VALUE OF MASS PROSTATE CANCER SCREENINGS QUESTIONED

VO: 22

The New England Journal of Medicine has published more information on prostate cancer screening. Why is it so controversial? Approximately 28,200 American men will die of prostate cancer in 2012. Among cancers, only lung cancer kills more men in the U.S. each year. This week's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine has a follow-up evaluation of The European Randomized Study of Screening for Prostate Cancer (ERSPC), which analyzed data from 162,000 men. The ERSPC study concluded that screening reduced an individual's relative risk of prostate cancer death by 21%. Many will quickly interpret this to mean that prostate screening with the blood test known as PSA saves lives. But the paper deserves a deeper examination, as the findings are not that simple.

DIETARY FAT LINKED TO LOW SPERM COUNT

VO: 17

Diets high in saturated fat are bad for waistlines, but they can also have a negative impact below the waist. They may lower sperm count and sperm concentration, according to a new study published in the journal Human Reproduction. Researchers from Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School collected semen samples from 99 mostly overweight or obese men and assessed their diets by asking them how often over the previous year they had certain

foods and beverages. They found that eating a lot of saturated fat was associated with a lower total sperm count and concentration. Diets high in omega-3 polyunsaturated fats - the fats commonly found in fish and plant oils -- were associated with better-quality semen, meaning the sperm cells were of a better size and shape. The study did not determine what particular kinds of saturated fats were linked to sperm count.

MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES TO RENT IN

VO: 32

If you're looking for a cheap rent, don't move to San Francisco. According to a new study by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, that city has the highest rents in the country. The average for a two bedroom is 1,905 dollars a month. A renter would have to make at least 76-thousand a year to avoid spending a third of their pay on housing. A person making minimum wage would have to work 130 hours a week. The Stamford-Norwalk metro area in Connecticut is next on the list. Honolulu, Hawaii rounds out the top three. The coalition prepared the study to show what it says is the lack of affordable housing for low income families.

=====END OF PART 1=====